

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1949

NEW BOOK OFFERS MINDSZENTY VIEWS

Presents Documents Smuggled
Out of Hungary—Denies
Anti-Semitic Charge

A Roman Catholic version of the events that preceded the arrest and imprisonment for life of Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty by the Communist-controlled Hungarian Government was published yesterday under the title "Cardinal Mindszenty Speaks." The publishers stated in a foreword that it was a White Book authorized by the imprisoned prelate.

Among other things, the book discloses that the Communist regime refused the Catholic clergy in Hungary permission to hold processions on church feast days and, in the months just preceding Cardinal Mindszenty's arrest, "discovered" threats of disease epidemics as an excuse to ban ecclesiastical gatherings for which official permission had been granted.

Published by Longmans, Green and Co., Inc., the book consists chiefly of documents that were smuggled out of Hungary before Cardinal Mindszenty's arrest in anticipation of just such a development. It includes an introduction by Akos Zombory, a Hungarian writer, that gives an abridged history of the special relationship that existed between the Government and Catholic Church in Hungary from the founding of the kingdom down to last year.

The book contains letters written by Cardinal Mindszenty protesting against Government seizure of church schools, the expulsion of Catholic teachers, the setting up of Government monopoly for the publication of textbooks and other matters.

Also included is the text of the cablegram that Cardinal Mindszenty sent to Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York and Bernard Cardinal Griffin of Britain asking their assistance in preventing the expulsion of Hungarians from Czechoslovakia. At the Cardinal's trial this was used as proof of his "conspiracy" against the Hungarian regime and his collaboration with "foreign" elements.

The documents in the book cover the period from Hungary's liberation from Nazi occupation in 1945 up to Cardinal Mindszenty's arrest on Dec. 27, 1948.

Documents in the book offer a refutation of the frequently repeated Communist charge that Cardinal Mindszenty fanned anti-Semitic passions and failed to speak out against Nazi outrages. A pastoral letter of May 24, 1945, deplored war destruction in Hungary and cited earlier protests against violations of the "innate

rights of man" made during the Nazi occupation. It also recalled that Catholic opposition had been largely responsible for the repeal of anti-Semitic laws before Hungary was taken over by the Nazis and that Catholics had opposed Hungary's entrance into the war on the side of Hitler.

Half an hour before his arrest on Dec. 27, the Cardinal wrote the following statement on the back of an old envelope that was smuggled into Switzerland and is now in possession of the publishers:

"I have partaken in no conspiracy whatsoever. I shall not resign my episcopal see. I shall not make any confession. If, however, despite this you should read that I confessed or that I resigned, and even see it authenticated by my signature thereto, regard that as merely the consequence of human frailty, and in advance I declare such acts null and void."

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38-7-3424

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